

**Claims**

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method of external localization of a software product comprising:  
5 loading a base product having one or more calls to an operating system to load language specific data;  
converting the base product to a language specific localized product during the loading of the base product using the base product and at least one language map containing language specific data; and  
10 executing the localized product in place of the base product.
2. The method of claim 1, wherein converting the base product to a language specific localized product comprises:  
intercepting the one or more calls to the operating system to load language specific data;  
15 retrieving language specific data from the language map based on the one or more calls to the operating system; and  
inserting the language specific data into the base product to produce the localized product.
3. The method of claim 1, wherein the one or more calls to an operating system to load  
20 language specific data reference the language specific data in the language map.
4. The method of claim 1, wherein the language specific data in the language map comprises string data that includes one or more placeholders for runtime generated strings.
- 25 5. The method of claim 1, wherein the base product is language neutral.

6. A system comprising:

a processor; and

a memory coupled with an readable by the processor and containing a series of

5 instructions that, when executed by the processor, cause the processor to load a  
base product having one or more calls to an operating system to load language  
specific data, convert to base product to a language specific localized product  
during the loading of the base product using the base product and at least one  
language map containing language specific data, and execute the localized product  
10 in place of the base product.

7. The system of claim 6, wherein converting the base product to a language specific  
localized product comprises:

15 intercepting the one or more calls to the operating system to load language specific data;  
retrieving language specific data from the language map based on the one or more calls to  
the operating system; and  
inserting the language specific data into the base product to produce the localized product.

20 8. The system of claim 6, wherein the one or more calls to an operating system to load  
language specific data reference the language specific data in the language map.

9. The system of claim 6, wherein the language specific data in the language map comprises  
string data that includes one or more placeholders for runtime generated strings.

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10. The system of claim 6, wherein the base product is language neutral.

11. A computer readable medium encoding a computer program of instructions for executing a computer process for external localization, said computer process comprising:  
loading a base product having one or more calls to an operating system to load language  
5 specific data;  
converting the base product to a language specific localized product during the loading of  
the base product using the base product and at least one language map containing  
language specific data; and  
executing the localized product in place of the base product.
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12. The computer readable medium of claim 11, wherein converting the base product to a localized product comprises:  
intercepting the one or more calls to the operating system to load language specific data;  
retrieving language specific data from the language map based on the one or more calls to  
15 the operating system; and  
inserting the language specific data into the base product to produce the localized product.
13. The computer readable medium of claim 11, wherein the one or more calls to an operating  
system to load language specific data reference the language specific data in the language  
20 map.
14. The computer readable medium of claim 11, wherein the language specific data in the  
language map comprises string data that includes one or more placeholders for runtime  
generated strings.
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15. The computer readable medium of claim 11, wherein the base product is language neutral.

16. A method of generating a software product comprising:  
generating a base product comprising computer executable instructions including one or  
more calls to an operating system , the one or more calls to the operating system to  
load language specific data; and  
generating at least one language map for storing the language specific data.
17. The method of claim 17, further comprising generating a translation layer, the translation  
layer to intercept the one or more calls to the operating system to load language specific  
data, retrieve language specific data from the language map based on the one or more  
calls to the operating system, and insert the language specific data into the base product to  
convert the base product to a localized product.
18. The method of claim 17, further comprising distributing the translation layer as part of an  
operating system.
19. The method of claim 16, wherein the one or more calls to an operating system to load  
language specific data reference the language specific data in the language map.
20. The method of claim 16, wherein the language specific data in the language map  
comprises string data that includes one or more placeholders for runtime generated  
strings.
21. A computer readable medium encoding a computer program of instructions for executing  
a computer process for external localization, said computer process comprising:

a base product comprising computer executable instructions including one or more calls  
to an operating system , the one or more calls to the operating system to load  
language specific data; and  
at least one language map for storing the language specific data.

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22. The computer readable medium of claim 21, further comprising a translation layer, the  
translation layer to intercept the one or more calls to the operating system to load  
language specific data, retrieve language specific data from the language map based on  
the one or more calls to the operating system, and insert the language specific data into  
10 the base product to convert the base product to a localized product.

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23. The computer readable medium of claim 21, wherein the one or more calls to an operating  
system to load language specific data reference the language specific data in the language  
map.

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24. The computer readable medium of claim 21, wherein the language specific data in the  
language map comprises string data that includes one or more placeholders for runtime  
generated strings.